

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 231172

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT:GRUMMAN ALLEGATIONS

REF: TOKYO 13885

1. AS FOLLOW-UP TO SEPTEMBER 14 HEARING ON GRUMMAN, CHIEF COUNSEL OF CHURCH SUBCOMMITTEE (LEVINSON) ASKED TO MEET INFORMALLY WITH AMBASSADOR GREEN, EA. ASST. SECRETARY AT TIME OF SAN CLEMENTE AND KUILIMA SUMMITS. (IT WAS STATED IN HEARING THAT E-2C SALE WAS RAISED AT NIXON-TANAKA SUMMITS IN "SUBCOMMITTEE" CHAIRED BY GREEN, WITH IMPLICATION THAT THIS WAS DONE AT WHITE HOUSE BEHEST AS SPECIAL FAVOR TO GRUMMAN.) GREEN MET WITH LEVINSON AND ONE OTHER STAFFER SEPTEMBER 17, AFTER REVIEWING OUR RECORDS OF SAN CLEMENTE AND KUILIMA MEETINGS. GREEN DESCRIBED OUR EFFORTS OVER PROLONGED PERIOD TO ENCOURAGE GOJ TO IMPROVE ITS AEW CAPABILITY, NOTING THAT E-2C WAS IN OUR JUDGEMENT WELL SUITED TO GOJ NEEDS. HE ADDED THAT E-2C WAS TOTAL
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SYSTEM, WITH PARTICIPATION BY US FIRMS OTHER THAN GRUMMAN,

AND WAS RAISED WITH JAPANESE BECAUSE IT APPEARED TO BE MAJOR SYSTEM WHICH WOULD FILL LEGITIMATE JAPANESE DEFENSE REQUIREMENT, HAVE MATERIAL EFFECT ON US BALANCE OF PAYMENTS (A MAJOR THEME AT KUILIMA MEETING) AND WAS NOT IN COMPETITION WITH OTHER POTENTIAL US SUPPLIERS. GREEN SAID

THERE HAD BEEN NO WHITE HOUSE "PRESSURE" TO RAISE E-2C AT KUILIMA AND POINTED OUT IT HAD ALSO BEEN RAISED WITH THEN FUMINO FUKUDA DURING NIXON/SATO MEETING AT SAN CLEMENTE IN JANUARY 1972. LEVINSON APPEARED SATISFIED WITH GREEN'S EXPLANATION.

2. JAPANESE HEAD OF CHANCERY (HAZUMI) CALLED JAPAN COUNTRY DIRECTOR SHERMAN SEPTEMBER 16 TO STATE ON INSTRUCTIONS THAT GOJ UNDERSTOOD SUBCOMMITTEE HAD REQUESTED TRANSCRIPTS OF SUMMIT CONVERSATIONS AND THAT GOJ ASSUMED THESE WOULD NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE. SHERMAN SAID GOJ CONCERNS WOULD BE BORNE IN MIND FULLY, BUT THAT IN FACT THERE HAD BEEN NO REQUEST FOR TRANSCRIPTS. (TRANSCRIPTS, IN ANY EVENT, WOULD COME UNDER WHITE HOUSE RATHER THAN DEPARTMENT'S JURISDICTION AND, AS PART OF NIXON PAPERS, REMAIN UNDER COURT EMBARGO.) SUBCOMMITTEE HAS NOT YET NOT ASKED FOR TRANSCRIPTS AND OUR IMPRESSION ON BASIS OF LEVINSON'S REMARKS IS THAT IT WILL NOT.

3. PRESS ATTENTION HERE HAS WANED AND STORIES THAT HAVE APPEARED HAVE TENDED TO FOCUS ON US DOMESTIC ASPECT; THERE WAS NO SUGGESTION IN HEARING AND NONE IN PRESS THAT IMPROPER PAYMENTS IN JAPAN WERE INVOLVED.

4. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF FURTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS. ROBINSON

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